

It's hard to believe that the year is at an end, but time flies when you are busy and this has been a busy year for our office. As you know, our District stretches from Lorton to Route 50 so there are many issues that we need to address in this wide span that makes up Springfield District.

As we reminisce about 2004, we thought of the many projects and issues we were involved in and would like to share some of them with you.

Public Safety Communication Center

I initiated and supported this facility since its inception. My staff and I visited Congressman Wolf and Senator Warner asking for assistance in finding a location for this much needed facility. We met with John Hager, Director of Homeland Security, and Secretary of Transportation Whit Clements to seek VDOT's co-location in the Center. Our Police and Fire Chiefs asked for support to get the State Police to be a part of the joint center. I asked that the bond to build this Center be moved up so we would have the money to construct the building. The good citizens of the County supported the bond. Now, this 'state of the art' communication facility will become a reality, approved by the Board of Supervisors, located in our District on West Ox Road and the County Parkway on land that the State of Virginia owned. This multi-faceted, public-use campus will include VDOT's Smart Traffic Signal System and Smart Traffic Center, Virginia State Police Dispatch and a forensics facility. The Center will act as a central command post for state and local public safety personnel and completion date is expected in the Fall of 2007.

Fire Stations

Fairfax County officials, project staff and firefighters broke ground for the Fairfax Center Fire Station 40 located at 4621 Legato Road in Fairfax. The station will have quarters to house 25 personnel for each of the three shifts, 900 square foot training room, a 2000 square foot storage space for hazardous materials, a curriculum development office and a battalion chief's area.

In the southern part of our District, land issues are currently being resolved that will allow for the placement of a new fire station at Hampton Rd. and Route 123 to better serve the Crosspointe and surrounding communities.

New Elementary School

I worked with the School Board, school staff and the developer to secure funding for a new elementary school located in the western portion of our District near the Fairfax County Government Center. This school would not have been built in the next three to five years. It will now be there to serve the new development in the western part of our District.

Ball Fields

As many of you know, we have worked very hard to obtain land for ball fields. Our office was able to find 85 acres which VDOT owned and did not need after the Parkway

was built. The Board of Supervisors supported me in purchasing this land. The Park Authority was able to assemble other parcels of land making the site a total of 97 acres. We were able to secure 3.5 million dollars from the park bond that was passed this year and together with proffers from developers, we will hope to soon see some progress in starting construction on new baseball, softball and soccer fields. We are excited over the prospects of getting additional fields, especially for the children who are in desperate need of additional playing fields in our County.

Transportation Projects

- Route 123 – After 18 years of working to secure funding for this vital road, I am assured by VDOT that the last one and a quarter miles from Davis Road to the Bridge over the Occoquan River is underway and hopefully will be completed before the new bridge is opened. We know when you travel over this wonderful improvement, you will be as thankful as we are for all who helped in making this project a priority.
- Burke Lake Rd. improvements – Burke Lake Rd. will be widened for 1.2 miles from two lanes to four lanes between Lee Chapel Road and the Fairfax County Parkway. This 4.2 million dollar project is scheduled for completion next Fall.
- Random Hills Rd. – This long awaited improvement involved widening from Fairfax Hills Rd. to Grey Finch Drive and is now complete.
- Fairfax County Parkway – The last leg of the Parkway, which goes through the Engineering Proving Grounds, will soon be underway. With the cooperation of three Supervisors, Gerry Hyland, Dana Kauffman and myself and particularly, Col. Williams of the Army, we have been able to get the cleanup of the proving grounds funded. The project to complete the Parkway will soon be underway and a significant portion of the project should be open to traffic by late 2007.

There are many more neighborhood projects that we have been able to complete, and I wish I could list them here but we will save that for another time.

I am grateful to have a staff who works hard to serve our citizens and for the many citizens who express their thanks for our work. We can't always solve everything, but we do our best to assist those who call us and ask for our help.

Best Wishes for the New Year!

Elaine